

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify my position on roll call votes cast on February 13, 2018.

On Roll Call Vote Number 70, on the Lexington VA Health Care System, I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "Yea."

On Roll Call Vote Number 71, to extend the Generalized System of Preferences and to make technical changes to the competitive need limitations provision of the program, I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "Yea."

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF WILLIAM TOMKA**HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor World War II Veteran, William John Tomka, with whom I had the recent pleasure of joining to celebrate his 100th birthday on January 27, 2018.

Born in Dover, New Jersey to immigrant parents, William spent his formative years in New Jersey, developing a love of music. This resulted in him becoming a music teacher until he was drafted into the United States Army on July 11, 1941. He left a successful teaching job in New Jersey to defend our great nation. After completing his radio operations training at Fort Dix and Fort Bragg, he was deployed to Iceland as part of the 50th Signal Battalion, in which he served as a Technical Sergeant, leading a group of 8 men who were also trained radio operators. His team was responsible for code, receiving and transmitting from the field, as well as in command cars. This group was part of the first American Army personnel to be sent into the European Theatre of Operations. After 22 months in Iceland, he was sent to England to be a part of the invasion force of France on D-Day. He was dropped on Utah Beach on June 6, 1944 and bravely fought through the campaign of Europe, including the American bombardment of the German forces at Saint-Lô. He and his fellow soldiers proceeded to serve at the Battle of the Bulge.

When accounting his most memorable times in the Army, Mr. Tomka will tell you about his time in Europe after D-day. He told me about his time in France where he witnessed American fighter pilots bomb the German forces and of his time served in joint force with the Russians at the river of Elbe. Mr. Tomka was discharged after three and a half years of foreign duty on June 22, 1945.

After his years of service, Mr. Tomka went back to his passion of teaching music. He started an instrumental music program in the Fledgefield school system of New Jersey. During his years of music education, Mr. Tomka obtained his master's degree from NYU in Supervision and Administration, and while he was at NYU, he played violin in the orchestra. Even at 100, his talents are still impressive. At his recent birthday celebration, Mr. Tomka

expertly played the clarinet, violin, piano, and sang for his family and friends.

I salute William John Tomka on his years of faithful service to our country and the public-school system. He has exemplified qualities of a true American hero, and I, on behalf of a grateful nation, admire his service and sacrifice.

CONGRATULATING DOMONIQUE
MALCOLM ON BEING NAMED A
DISTINGUISHED FINALIST BY
THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF
COMMUNITY AWARDS**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Domonique Malcolm for being named a Distinguished Finalist in New York State by the 2018 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state.

Ms. Malcolm is being recognized for co-founding a nonprofit that led several mission trips to help an impoverished community in Jamaica, and for recently coordinating a trip that mobilized 29 volunteers to build two new houses and offer medical and dental support at a local clinic. Over the past four years, Ms. Malcolm has also helped provide the community with support, including groceries and computers for students.

Created in 1995, the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards recognizes the critical importance and high value of contributions made by youth volunteers, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 23 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has honored more than 120,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national levels.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I heartily applaud Ms. Malcolm for her commitment and dedication to serving others, and thank her for the positive impact she has made on many lives. Young volunteers like Ms. Malcolm are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. EUNICE
L. MIXON**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work and service of a distinguished educator, political activist, and dear friend to my wife, Vivian and me, Mrs. Eunice L. Mixon. She was honored as the 2018 Distinguished Older Georgian, a title given by the Georgia Council on Aging to honor a Georgian, of at least 80 years of age, who is a role model for positive aging and has made significant contribution to society through occupational or volunteer efforts. An award reception was held for Eunice at the

Georgia State Capitol at 2 p.m. on Thursday, February 8, 2018 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Eunice L. Mixon was born in Tifton, Georgia on April 11, 1931 to the union of the late Robert and Carrie Lastinger. A product of the Tift County School System, she went on to attend classes at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and earn both Master's and Specialist Degrees in Science Education from the University of Georgia.

Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Through every stage of her life, Eunice has always given of herself to others. She served as an educator for 30 years within the Tift County School System and at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College before redirecting her passion to politics. Her first official post in politics came in 1974 when she became the Tift County campaign chair for former Governor George Busbee. She also served as a delegate to the 1988 and 1992 National Democratic Conventions, and as a member of the Georgia Democratic Executive Committee. Over the years, she has helped campaign and fundraise for several political figures including former Georgia Lieutenant Governors Zell Miller, and Pierre Howard, former Georgia Governors Roy Barnes, Joe Frank Harris, and Sonny Perdue, former Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture Tommy Irvin, former Georgia Secretary of State Max Cleland, U.S. Representative Charles Hatcher, former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn, former U.S. Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton as well as yours truly.

Eunice's distinguished civil service has been mirrored by her extensive involvement in her community. In conjunction with her professional accomplishments in politics, she served on several boards, including the Georgia Student Finance Commission, Vocational Education Task Force, Advisory Council on Consolidation of Education Programs, Georgia Civil War Commission, Joint Board Liaison Committee, and the Georgia State Bar Disciplinary Board. She has served as the doorkeeper to the Georgia State Senate, and has served on the State Bar of Georgia's Investigative Panel, the Tifton/Tift County Library Board, the Coastal Plain Regional Library Board, the Georgia Student Finance Commission Board, the Heritage Trust Commission Board, the Agrirama Foundation and the State Election Board.

Eunice received several awards for her extensive work in politics. These include induction into the Tift County Chamber of Commerce's Wall of Fame in 2014; the Liberty Bell Award by the Tifton Judicial Circuit Bar Association in 2016; a spot on the 40 Most Influential South Georgians; and in 2010, the State Bar of Georgia honored Eunice with an award in her name.

Eunice has accomplished many things in her life but none of these would have been possible without the enduring support of her late husband, Albert and their sons, Johnny and Jimmy.

On a personal note, I have been blessed to know Eunice for many years and I can say without reservation that she is one of the most passionate and warmhearted individuals I have ever met. I am proud to consider Eunice and the Mixon family friends of longstanding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in extending our sincerest congratulations to Mrs. Eunice L. Mixon for receiving the title of 2018 Distinguished Older Georgian and for her many years of service to her community, state, and nation.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, this February marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of a truly great American, Mr. Frederick Douglass. Having been born into slavery as Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey in Talbot County, Maryland, Mr. Douglass never knew his real birthday. He often lamented that he had only a few, shadowy memories of his mother, who would walk miles at night to visit him as a child, and then walk back home to be in the fields before sunrise. Yet that little boy would grow up into a brave young man, who taught himself to read and write, and successfully escaped slavery on his third attempt. He would marry Anna, the love of his life, and remain married to her until her death. He was a devoted father to all five of their children. While still a fugitive slave, he would write the first of three autobiographies: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, which remains one of the greatest books ever written in the English language. Mr. Douglass was a deeply courageous American who never shied away from confronting evil, even at great personal risk. He became a world-renowned orator in the cause of abolition, laying bare the horrors of slavery and helping to end that cursed institution in America once and for all. He began and edited his own abolitionist newspaper, *The North Star*. He successfully published his paper until slavery ended, despite opposition and persecution from other abolitionists. He met with and served as an advisor to President Lincoln during the Civil War, and did not hesitate to confront the President directly over the treatment of African American soldiers in the Union Army. After the Civil War ended, Douglass served four more presidents, fighting to end racial segregation and to get African Americans and women the right to vote. For his entire life, he worked tirelessly to bring justice to the oppressed and to call America to live out its highest ideals, reminding us that "The life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful, and virtuous." I would also like to recognize two great organizations that have been founded to continue Mr. Douglass' legacy of faith-based activism, moral courage and clarity, and family devotion. The Frederick Douglass Foundation was founded in 2009 by Dr. Timothy Johnson, Mr. Troy Rolling and Rev. Dean Nelson to engage and recruit black activists, community leaders to become members of the Republican Party. The organization has thousands of members and chapters in over 15 states. The Douglass Leadership Institute, founded in 2015 by Rev. Dean Nelson, a non-partisan organization which educates, equips and empowers faith-based leaders to embrace and

apply biblical principles to life. Both organizations are committed to Righteousness, Justice, Liberty and Virtue.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HARRISBURG

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the First Baptist Church of Harrisburg, IL.

The church was established on February 15, 1868. The first meetings were held at the Harrisburg Courthouse.

The Church is located in the Saline county seat. Because of the strength and character of its members, the First Baptist Church possesses both a rich history and a vibrant future. They are commemorating their 150th anniversary with a special celebration on Saturday, February 17. Beginning at 1:00 PM, there will be a video presentation, an organ concert, a quartet singing, a beard judging, a historical fashion show, and a dessert and pie social at the end. I am honored to recognize such a strong community of faith in my district.

I look forward to the continued prosperity of the First Baptist Church in Harrisburg for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING GRABUONE OUTFITTERS FOR THEIR HIT SHOW "MISSISSIPPI SNAKE GRABBERS"

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, Scott County, Mississippi is home to a one-of-a-kind hobby, known as snake-grabbing. Pioneered by a group of men who are known as "Grabuone Outfitters," this hobby has become a way of life, a business venture, and a hit television show by the title of Mississippi Snake Grabbers.

The snake-catching venture's roots started in 1990 when a group of men from Scott County began traveling to Lake St John, Louisiana, for an annual fishing trip. On this trip, one of the fishermen, Jimmie Nichols, reached over his buddy Rayford Palmer, grabbed a snake off a limb, and pulled it into their boat. This began a tradition of catching snakes that continues to this day.

A few years later the stories of the snake-catching excursions piqued the interest of others, including Joey Mayes, Joey Rigby, and Shane Gibson, whose boat quickly became known as the Snake Boat, and it was during that time the small group of four started calling themselves "Grabuone Outfitters."

The group began videoing their snake hunts and attracted even more attention, and that is when Brad Vincent and Brent Shorter were added to the group. Brent had originally been hired to video Snake Hunt Mississippi Style Volume II, but after his first trip on the water, the team had its sixth member.

The men of Grabuone Outfitters were able to turn their hobby into an honest to goodness business, taking folks from all walks of life onto the lake to experience a thrill like no other. It is my unique honor to recognize Grabuone Outfitters for their hit television show Mississippi Snake Grabbers, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING STAN COBURN

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Stan Coburn of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Stan recently surpassed his 50th year of employment at the USPS. Stan joined the USPS in 1968, only to be drafted into the Marines shortly thereafter. He served as a helicopter machine gunner during the conflict in Vietnam, then returned to his position at the Post Office one year later.

During his career, Stan has been stationed at every Post Office in the Fort Wayne area, and has worked every shift available. Stan has said that he still feels like he has another five years of service left in him.

Northeast Indiana is thankful for Stan's many years of service and commitment to our community. In fact, February 6, 2018, was Stan Coburn Day in Fort Wayne. I would like to show appreciation to Stan for his dedication to Hoosiers in my district, and congratulate him on reaching this milestone.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLIE SPANO, UNICAN OF THE YEAR FOR THE UNICO SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charlie Spano, who has been named the UNICAN of the Year by the Scranton Chapter of UNICO National for their 59th annual charity ball on February 24, 2018.

Before his retirement in 2005, Charlie Spano taught elementary students in the Scranton School District. He received a Master of Science in elementary administration with certification from the University of Scranton and a Bachelor of Science in education and history from Wilkes University. He also served as director of the Bureau of Community and Student Services for the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Charlie is an active member of his community and has served his neighbors in many capacities throughout the years. He has served as the Deputy Director of voter education for Lackawanna County, assisting in outreach providing information on voting systems; Assistant Manager for Recruiting for the U.S. Census Bureau in Scranton; Chairman of Scranton City Cable Consumer Advisory Commission; a member of the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission of Lackawanna County; a member of the 9-11 Memorial Committee in Lackawanna County; Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Anthracite Heritage Museum